



May 23, 1989

TO: George Zachos
George Pavlou
Nickie DiForte
✓ Howard Orlean
Del Karlen
John Vafi
Joe McVeigh
Lise Pederson

A briefing has been scheduled for THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989 at 9:00am with Bill Muszynski regarding the **IDEAL COOPERAGE SITE** in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Attached please find the Pollution Report on Ideal Cooperage.

Attachment

Steve Luftig



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

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POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: May 8, 1989

Region II
Response and Prevention Branch
Edison, New Jersey 08837

TO: W. Muszynski, EPA ✓
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(201) 548-8730 - Commercial and FTS
24 Hour Emergency

POLREP NO.: Three (3)
INCIDENT NAME: Ideal Cooperage
SITE NO.: ZZ
POLLUTANT: Unknowns
CLASSIFICATION: Major
SOURCE: Empty drum storage area for former steel
drum reconditioning facility
LOCATION: Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey
AMOUNT: 300-400 drums, 1 gas cylinder
WATER BODY: None

1. SITUATION:

A. In the fall of 1981, a steel drum reconditioning company known as Ideal Cooperage, Inc. ceased operations at the site. On the property were several abandoned buildings and tractor-trailers as well as several hundred drums, both full and empty. The majority of the property was dedicated to drum rinsing and reconditioning, while a smaller area was used for drum storage. The property on which the rinsing and reconditioning took place was eventually sold to a trucking company which cleaned up and redeveloped the land. However, the small parcel of land used for storage remained unsold, undeveloped, and contaminated.

B. The undeveloped property, approximately 1.3 acres in size, is situated on the side of a hill. The site is mostly flat, but slopes down to the property line around almost its entire perimeter. The ground consists of loose soil with low brush and some trees. The site is bordered by New York Avenue on the north and west, the trucking company on the east, and the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad Line on the south. Assessments performed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) have determined that several hundred drums remain on the site. Most of these drums are

reportedly empty, but some still contain liquid. Test borings into the soil have indicated the presence of toluene, tetrachloroethylene, and petroleum hydrocarbons. There is also the possibility that the site may contain buried drums.

C. The NJDEP has observed the site being used as a dumping ground for household garbage, construction debris, and abandoned automobiles. The equivalent of seventeen rolloff containers of solid waste were once cleared from the site, but continuous illegal dumping has made it impossible to keep the property free of trash. Neighborhood children also use the site as a playground, and had even built a "fort" using empty drums.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. On 2 May, TAT returned to take random soil samples of on-site. When they arrived, they found that approximately 100 square feet had been paved. This material is presumably from the road resurfacing outside of the site. It was a part of Jersey City's work plan.

B. While on-site, a member of Jersey City's Department of Engineering stopped and asked them to identify themselves and their purpose on-site. He then asked to be notified of any planned EPA action on-site.

C. Since this is the second interference from Jersey City, the Removal Action Branch is currently reviewing this with the Enforcement Branch to see if legal action is necessary.

3. MEASURES WHICH COULD AVOID RELEASES OF SIMILAR NATURE:

None.

4. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Pending the outcome of reviewal by Enforcement.

FINAL POLREP _____ FURTHER
POLREPS
FORTHCOMING ☒ SUBMITTED BY Lise Pederson
Lise Pederson, OSC
Response and
Prevention Branch

DATE RELEASED: 8 May 1989